

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. No claims are amended by the present amendment, thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13-18, 29-31 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wilson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,467,170, herein “Wilson”) in view of Taguchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,937,232, herein “Taguchi”); and Claims 3-6, 9-12, 19-28, 32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wilson and Taguchi in view of Kimoto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,390,005, herein “Kimoto”).

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13-18, 29-31 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wilson and Taguchi, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the touch panel display; and  
allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming from the input document handling area.

Claim 7 recites similar features.

Wilson describes a non-touch screen panel which displays copier status and a number of copier output options. The options shown in Figure 3 of Wilson are selected using a number of physical up/down buttons B1-B8. When the user presses the B2 up button, for example, the screen shows the selection box moving from the “YES” option to the “NO” option above. In addition, the boxes above the up/down buttons B1-B8 denote to which

setting each respective button corresponds (e.g. B1 corresponds to “ORIGINAL COPY”, B2 corresponds to “COLLATE”, etc.).

However, as is acknowledged on page 3, line 8 of the outstanding Office Action, Wilson does not describe or suggest displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the touch panel display or allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming from the input document handling area.

Nevertheless, the outstanding Action cites Taguchi as curing the above noted deficiencies of Wilson.

Taguchi describes an image forming apparatus with a touch panel 402. However, Taguchi does not describe or suggest displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the display and allowing selection of at least one kind of *input document* for image forming from the input document handling area, as is recited in Claim 1.

The outstanding Action states on page 3 that

Taguchi teaches a method of controlling an image forming apparatus, wherein a touch panel display is employed, as well as providing users with an input document handling area in which selection of a kind of input document from the input document handling area could be made (fig. 5; col. 12, lines 7-26; e.g. *color modes and character/image selections*).

However, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion and submit that Taguchi does **not** describe or suggest an input document handling area. In addition, Taguchi does not describe or suggest allowing selection of at least one kind of input document. As is noted above, the outstanding Action cites the color modes and character/image selections shown in Figure 5 as corresponding to the kinds of input document. In other words, the color modes (“single color”, “Monochrome”, “Full-Color” and “Automatically color select”) and the character/image selections (“Character”, “Photograph” and “Automatic Image Select”) shown in Figure 5 are cited by the outstanding Action as being kinds of input documents

allowing for selection of a kind of input document. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion as incorrect.

The options illustrated in Figure 5 are unquestionable modes relating to an *output document*. For instance, col. 12, lines 16-23 of Taguchi states

As shown in FIG. 5, on the LCD screen there is a mode select display such as a **color mode**, an automatic density, a manual density, **an image quality mode**, an automatic paper select, a paper feed tray, a paper automatic size change, a change for an original size, sort, and stack, and further prepared also thereon is a sub-screen select display such as creative edition, coloring, movement/book processing, and image size change (emphasis added).

The “modes” noted above and shown in Figure 5 are clearly output modes. The color mode, the image quality mode, automatic/manual density are clearly indicative of settings for an output document. In addition, there is no evidence that these modes are “kinds of input documents” while there is significant evidence pointing to the fact that the modes illustrated in Figure 5 are, in fact, output document options. For instance, the context in which the color mode and image quality mode are mentioned is with regard to options for output documents. For example, paper select and image density options are clearly relating to output documents. Thus, one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would not have looked to Taguchi to “further enhance the image capturing resolution/quality/mode with specific functionalities for selecting type of *input document*” (emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 7 and claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Wilson and Taguchi.

Moreover, with respect to the further cited Kimoto reference, this reference does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Wilson and Taguchi with respect to Claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-6 and 8-36 also patentably distinguish over the cited art in light of their dependence from Claims 1 and 7.

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Reply to Office Action of December 17, 2007

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

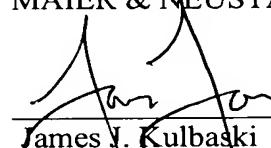
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)

  
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James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

James Love  
Registration No. 58,421

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